

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 03641 211011Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /102 W  
-----069503 211255Z /72

R 210718Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7582  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPT PLEASE PASS TO MID-EAST POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, ID, IS  
SUBJECT: INDONESIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI INVASION

1. FOLLOWING NEWS OF THE ISRAELI INVASION OF SOUTH LEBANON, THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT ON MARCH 16 CONDEMNING THE ACTION AS UNWARRANTED "AGGRESSION." IT WAS CITED AS "ANOTHER PROOF OF ISRAELI'S REFUSAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND HELP CREATE TRANQUILITY IN THE REGION." THE STATEMENT URGED ISRAEL TO SHOW ITS RESPECT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON BY WITHDRAWING ITS TROOPS IMMEDIATELY, AND CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT INDONESIA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT THROUGH THE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

2. PROMINENT MOSLEM MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IMRON ROSYADI  
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ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE INVASION, CALLING IT A VIOLATION OF THE UN CHARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. DUE PRIMARILY TO THE HEAVY ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE IMPENDING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN INDONESIA, EDITORIAL REACTION HAS BEEN LIGHT. THE INDONESIAN TIMES ON MARCH 17 PICKED UP ON THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT'S RELEASE

BY REITERATING THE CHARGE OF AGGRESSION. AFTER RECOUNTING WHAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SAID IN DEFENSE OF THE INVASION, THE TIMES EDITORIAL CALLED THE INVASION AN ACT OF DESPERATION BECAUSE "HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT SUCH ACTIONS WILL NOT SETTLE THE PROBLEM" OF PEACE, BUT WILL INSTEAD ONLY AGGREGATE THE PALESTINIAN SITUATION AND STIFFEN THEIR RESISTANCE TO THE ISRAELIS. THE CHANCES FOR THE PALESTINIANS EVENTUALLY TO ADOPT A MORE MODERATE STAND SIMILAR TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S BECOME MORE REMOTE, THE EDITORIAL SAID. "THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WILL BECOME CRITICAL IF WASHINGTON FAILS TO PREVENT TEL AVIV'S MOVES TO EVER CONFINE THE AREA IN WHICH THE PALESTINIANS CAN SETTLE. THE PALESTINIAN LEADERS ARE NOW PROVIDED WITH TWO OPTIONS: WHETHER TO ACCEPT REALITIES AND JOIN THE MODERATES OR TO MAINTAIN THE BLOOD BATH. AFTER ALL, IT IS ISRAEL WHO IN PRACTICE HAS ENJOYED MOST OF THE RESULTS OF A HARDLINE POLICY."

4. STRAIGHT REPORTING OF THE EVENTS IN THE PRESS WAS HEAVY AND EXTENSIVE RECEIVING BOTH FRONT PAGE AND INSIDE TREATMENT. ON MARCH 21, THE PRESS REPORTED A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SYRIAN AMBASSADOR AHMAD ISMAIL PRAISING THE ATTITUDE OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT SAYING THAT IT WAS CONSONANT WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST.

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5. COMMENT: OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE LATEST EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS UNSPECTACULAR AND IN KEEPING WITH THE GOI'S EFFORTS TO STAY IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES' GOOD GRACES. EDITORIAL IN THE TIMES, WHICH IS OFTEN USED TO DISSEMINATE OFFICIAL VIEWS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, WAS INTERESTING IN THAT IT PLACED PARTIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PALESTINIANS FOR ESCALATING THE CONFLICT AND ARGUED THAT MODERATION WAS IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS.  
MASTERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED MID-EAST POSTS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INVASIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 21 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** INDONESIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI INVASION  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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